(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Government have come across reports of the sale of arms by China to Myanmar. Government are also aware of the extensive defence cooperation between China and Pakistan including supply of Chinese aircrafts, missiles and other weapons and transfer of sophisticated arms technology.

(c) The Chinese Government has been made aware of our concern in this regard.

Government have and will continue to monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take adequate measures to safeguard it.

Indo-U.S. Relations

271. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are two major irritants in Indo-U.S. relations at present, namely, the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and the missile technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Our relations with the US are multi-faceted and wide-ranging. While there are shared perspectives on many issues, differences exist on the NPT and issues relating to missile technology proliferation. India's position on the NPT is well-known. On the issue of missile technology, Government are committed to a policy of self-reliance.

(c) Government are discussing issues relating to disarmament, non-proliferation and regional security on a bilateral basis with the US Administration. This dialogue is intended to facilitate a better understanding of each other's positions.

Taking over of ICWA

272. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representations for taking over of the management of ICWA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the deterioration in the working condition and salary of staff in the council and if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government are considering various measures including possibility of introducing a Bill in Parliament for the takeover of the Council's management to improve the ICWA and restore its original standards; and

(e) if so, by when the working of ICWA is expected to be improved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Numerous representations have been received by Government from individuals, staff association and other bodies asking Government to take over the management of the ICWA.

(c) to (e) Government are aware of complaints of deteriorating working conditions in the ICWA including staff grievances. Various measures for revitalising the functioning of the ICWA at an early date are under consideration.

Problems faced by ICWA staff

273. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to sanction grant to ICWA's present management without solving the problems of its staff;